

Gen. Turner Pleads No Contest

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner, who was sentenced to three years in a federal prison on Monday, pleaded no contest yesterday to a charge that he evaded payment of \$14,417.19 in U.S. taxes on his 1968 income.

After accepting the plea in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Judge Oran R. Lewis granted a government motion to dismiss three other income

tax charges against Turner, once the Army's top law enforcement officer and the Nixon administration's first chief U.S. marshal.

Judge Lewis told attorneys that his accepting the plea amounted to a finding of guilty against Turner. Assistant U.S. Attorney Gilbert Davis Jr. said later that the government entered an objection to the no contest plea be-

cause, in a tax case, it means that the defendant does not concede that the amount of under payment alleged by the government is correct.

A guilty plea, by conceding that the alleged amount owed is correct, would bolster the government's position in any civil suit filed to collect the unpaid taxes, Davis said.

Yesterday's court action disposed of the last of 13 federal

criminal charges against Turner. In January, a grand jury indicted him on the four income tax counts and nine counts of soliciting gifts of firearms for the Army and then stealing them, of possession of illegal firearms and of stealing government owned firearms.

He pleaded guilty on April 9 to one of the nine firearms counts. It alleged that he stole

in \$14,417 Tax Evasion Case

136 confiscated weapons given to him by the Chicago police department for Army training use in November of 1968. Lewis sentenced him to three years in prison on that charge on Monday.

Lewis is expected to sentence Turner on the income tax charge Monday when the retired general is scheduled to surrender to U. S. marshals to

begin serving the firearms theft term. Maximum penalty under the tax charge is five years in prison and \$5,000 fine.

Turner, 58, is a native of Altus, Okla., and now lives in Springfield, Va. He is married and the father of two children.

He served on active duty in the Army from 1942 to 198. His last post was as provost marshal, the chief Army law

enforcement post. His firearms thefts and income tax violations first came to light in 1969 Senate hearings probing Turner's alleged failure to investigate charges of service club corruption when he was the Army provost marshal general.

He was named chief U. S. marshal in 1969, served for several months, and resigned

the post when it was learned that he would be a key witness in the Senate hearings.